

## Yarn:

# The Story behind the Statue

Long ago, the city of Rhodes was known for its giant statue, called the Colossus. This huge iron and bronze statue stood watch over the great harbor of Rhodes, a city that was one of the great trading cities of ancient times. Today, Rhodes is known as much for its Colossus as for its trade. But the Colossus wasn't always standing watch over the harbour. Here's how it came to be:



Rhodes, an island off the coast of Asia Minor, was in an excellent position to be a trading centre. Ships from the Greek lands and the Persian provinces would stop in Rhodes on their way to their destinations. Phoenicians and other who traded in the Mediterranean area would also stop in Rhodes.

In the time of Alexander the Great, Rhodes became part of Alexander's empire. But when Alexander died, the struggle over his kingdom extended to Rhodes as well. The result was a giant siege.

No matter how many times or how many men the invaders brought against Rhodes's high, sturdy walls, the walls held. Finally, the invaders gave up and went home.

The people of Rhodes were so happy that they didn't have to take orders from anybody else that they decided to build a giant statue of their favorite god, Helios, to celebrate their continued freedom.

The result was the Colossus, a giant iron and bronze statue that measured 110 feet high and stood on a 50-foot-high pedestal. Inside were stone columns that helped keep the statue upright.



Historians think that construction began in 304 B.C. and that it took 12 years to build the statue. Some archaeologists also think that the statue was building using ramps, in much the same way that the Egyptian Pyramids might have been built.

The Colossus was made by a man named Chares, whose teacher had built a 60-foot-high statue of Zeus. Historians tell us that Chares started out by making a model of the statue, then working his way up to larger versions.

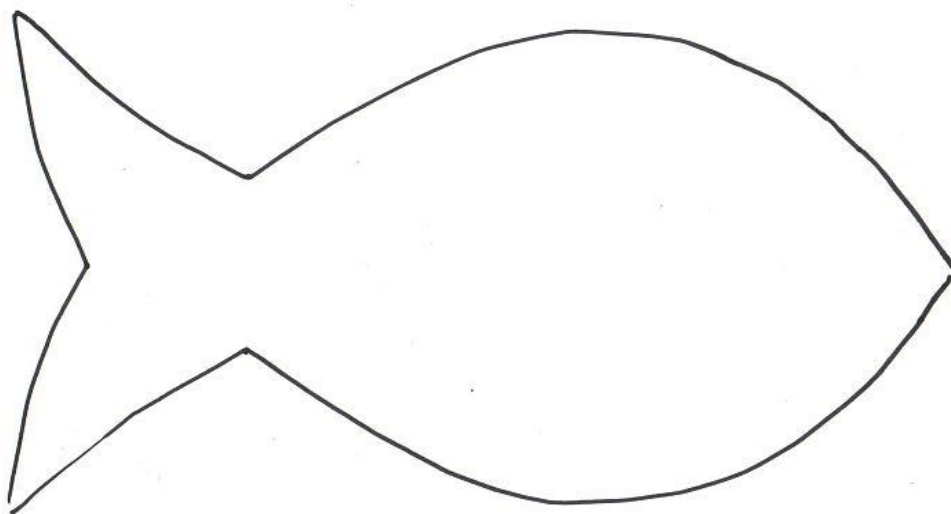
It stood proudly at the entrance to Rhodes harbor for 56 years, until an earthquake broke it into pieces. For hundreds of years after that, the pieces lay where they fell, symbols of the city's former glory.

Sometime in the 600s A.D., Arabs conquered Rhodes and broke up the statue's pieces. Stories of the time say that it took 900 camels to cart away all the stone, iron, and bronze that once made up the Colossus of Rhodes.

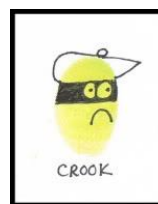
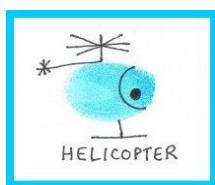
Also look at:

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/worldhistory/colossus1.htm>  
<http://7wonders.mrdonn.org/colossus.html>

<b>Revision:</b>	<b>Knotting</b>
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<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Thumb/Finger Print Pictures</b>
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<http://www.billybear4kids.com/Learn2Draw/FingerPrints.html>